

WARE RIVER NEWS

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Courtesy photo
Stephen Bell hired as the new Quabbin Health Director, as current director Judith Metcalf retires in June.

Bell hired as new Quabbin Health Director

By Melina Bourdeau
Staff writer

BELCHERTOWN – The Quabbin Health District approved Stephen Bell as its next director following the retirement of Judy Metcalf.

Members of the district, composed of Belchertown, Ware and Pelham Boards of Health, met last week to vote on the matter. The group unanimously supported the recommendation of the health director search committee to appoint Bell.

Bell was unanimously approved by the district members with a starting salary of \$77,262.53.

To allow for overlap between Metcalf and Bell, his starting date will be on March 15 through April 24, which will be Metcalf's last day in person. She will still be an employee of the district until June 30.

Belchertown Board of Health Chair Leeanne Connolly said out of the two candidates, Bell was "the obvious choice."

"One of the main reasons was, not only his qualifications, but

he's familiar with the system, he knows what he's getting into as far as three towns. There's a degree of variety in all three towns," she said. "He's working with Judy now, and he's familiar with how the Quabbin Health District performs and does their work."

Member of the search committee and Ware resident, John Desmond, said he gave a strong recommendation to hire Bell. Desmond also played a role in hiring Metcalf.

"(Appointing Bell) would allow for a seamless transition, which we

need at this time," he said.

In an interview with Turley Publications, Bell, a Vermont-native, said he wants the Quabbin Health District to know he's passionate about the health of its residents.

"I attended UMass Amherst for both my bachelor's and master's degrees and have really loved the area ever since," Bell said. "It's important to me to do a good job protecting the health of the communities in the district, and my family connection to western Massachusetts makes that a more

personal goal. I care about the area and the different towns, and I intend to do my best to make each town a healthy place to live."

Bell studied public health because he believes "it's critically important, not just at the national or state level, but the local level as well."

Bell said he worked with Metcalf for three years from 2016 to 2018.

"During that period, I got to spend a lot of time observing how

Please see **DIRECTOR**, page 5

Board votes to fund plant with water fees

Will consider using cannabis, solar funds

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

WARE – SelectBoard members voted 4-1 to fund the proposed water filtration plant through water fees, as opposed to using only general fund monies or some mix of water fees and the general fund. The bulk of the town's money comes from residential real estate taxes, with commercial and industrial real estate taxes as well.

"The way I see it, there are three options," said SelectBoard Chairman Alan Whitney, who proposed funding the plant through water rates alone. "We can pay for the plant, drink the mud or move. We're in a corner."

"The price of the water filtration plant shouldn't go on taxpayers," said SelectBoard member John Morrin.

SelectBoard member Tom Barnes said he has been on private water and no one has helped him or other private well users. He again suggested more residents might support paying for the new plant through increased real estate taxes if they were re-imbursed for well pumps that go bad periodically.

SelectBoard member Nancy Talbot voted no. She has said in the past that as a taxpayer, although she has a private well, she would be willing to support other residents and businesses. "Our drinking water should be clean, our drinking water should be pure," she said of water for all residents.

The plant

The plant, which would be built at the Barnes Street pumping station, would filter out iron and manganese from the water supply before it can bind together with chlorine, which is used in the water system. If the minerals get bound with the chlorine, the water can be brown and it can ruin laundry as well. It has been determined that the water is okay to drink. The DPW has returned to flushing the water system twice a year, which has helped much of the water to remain clearer. Department of Public Works Director Gilbert St. George-Sorel said Tuesday the Water Department has not recently received any complaints about the color of the water.

Funding

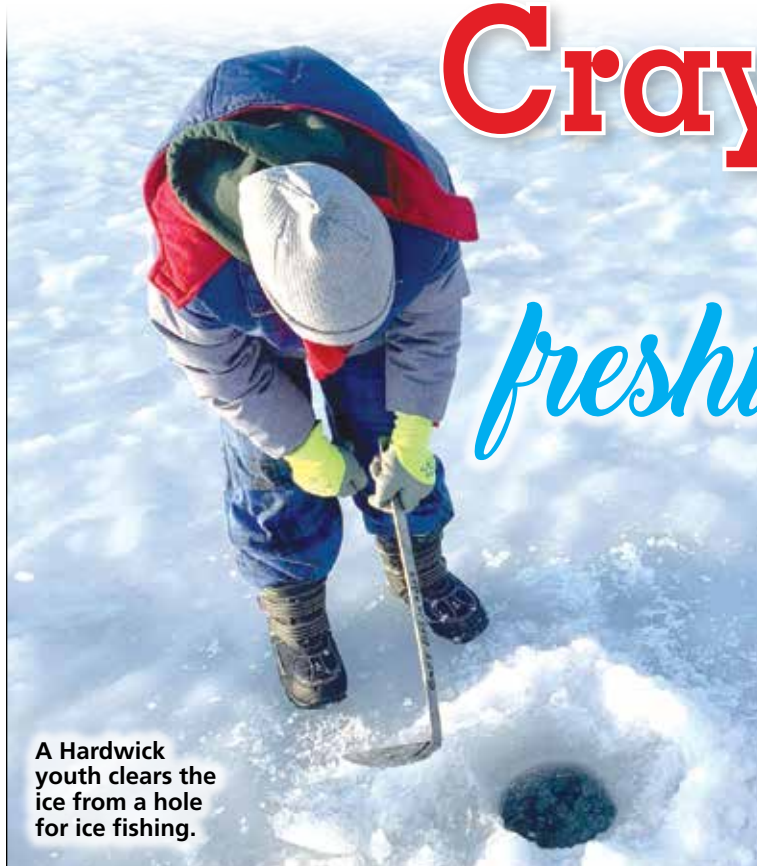
No matter how the town decides to fund the plant, it will have to come before Town Meeting voters again as the price has risen from \$6 million, which was approved by voters several years ago. The estimated cost is now \$13.3 million, according to figures put together in the past year by Tighe & Bond.

During a previous presentation by Tighe & Bond, which developed a water rate evaluation on how to pay for the plant, which offered three options: pay for it from the Water Enterprise Fund, which has the income from water fees, use a formula of 75% in water fees and 25% through general town revenue or a 50-50 split between water fees and general fund.

Please see **FEES**, page 5



Members of the Hardwick Youth Center pose with East Quabbin Land Trust's Youth Education Coordinator, Pat Allison, during a snowy hike at Mandell Hill in Hardwick, one of the land trust's preserves.



A Hardwick youth clears the ice from a hole for ice fishing.

Crayfish expert offers youth freshwater adventure

By Paula Ouimette
Staff Writer

HARDWICK – Pat Allison has always had a deep appreciation for nature and wildlife, more specifically for small freshwater crustaceans found in streams and rivers. "I'm obsessed with crayfish," said Allison as he pointed out several posters of crayfish adorning his office walls during a recent Zoom interview.

A native of Pennsylvania, Allison received a bachelor of science degree in conservation and wildlife management from Delaware Valley University and a master of science in biology from West Liberty University in West Virginia. Allison has pursued his "obsession" as his career focus.

After graduate school, Allison worked as a park ranger at Valley

Please see **EQLT**, page 5

New Quaboag Hills Chamber head to focus on surviving, growing

By Michael Harrison
mharrison@turley.com

REGION — As businesses and residents look forward to an economic rebound, the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce recently hired a new vice president and CEO to help position its more than 250 members to grow their businesses once restrictions are lifted and consumer confidence returns.

Andrew Surprise started the job about a month ago. It's a part-time position for now, though that could change as chamber members regain their footing and start planning for the future.

"The chamber was hurt like everyone else with the downturn in the economy, and so we're hoping that eventually within the next year the position can be full-time, because there's a lot of need for somebody to help," he said.

A native of Springfield and East Longmeadow who was educated locally, earning a degree in political science from Western New England University, Surprise has a background in business, public relations, marketing and branding. Once an intern for former Gov. Jane Swift, he made his reputation as a political consul-

Please see **CHAMBER**, page 10

Coming together to clean the town

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

WARREN – A volunteer clean-up is planned for this Saturday, beginning at 8 a.m. at the Town Common, where trash bags will be handed out to those who want to participate, according to Sarah Tetreault, who is working with John Fijol, and his wife, Carrie Plante-Fijol, to hold the event.

"We have about 400 trash bags we're going to pass out, and we will be collecting the trash between 3:30 and 4 p.m.," she said. They will have two drop off

places for trash: one in the center of Warren and one on Jim Allard's property in West Warren at the traffic light.

Fijol will haul the trash away and dispose of it, she said. The town said it would cost too much to have the trash to and disposed of at the landfill, she said, so Fijol agreed to have it removed.

"There's been a lot talk on Facebook about trash dumped on the side of the road, so we decided to co-ordinate and see what we could do about it," she said.

All residents are invited to help out she said. Volunteers are urged to wear clothes appropriate for the

weather, although it is forecasted to be a sunny day with a high of 30 degrees. Also, volunteers should have a pair of work gloves and bring their own water.

Students from the Quaboag Regional Middle High School will be on hand helping out, she said, with members from the school's National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society planning to be on hand.

"You get to be six feet apart and you're outside," she said. "We just wanted to do something good, there's not been a lot of good things lately." All participants are asked to wear masks.

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COMMUNITY

Ware students donate to diaper drive

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EDUCATION

The show must go on

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SPORTS

Smith reaches 1,000 points

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Courtesy photo

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY STUDENTS DONATE TO DIAPER MISSION

WARE – The Ware High School National Honor Society donated 1,628 diapers and 33 packets of wipes to Trinity Church's Jubilee Diaper Mission. Left to right are Lexie Orszulak, Olivia Vadnais, Norah Ayers and Chelsea Orszulak.

Trinity Episcopal to hold corned beef dinner

WARE – A St.Patrick's Day corned beef and cabbage dinner will be held on Wednesday, March 17, from 4 to 6 p.m., at Trinity Episcopal Church, at the corner of Park and Pleasant streets.

The dinner includes corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, carrots and bread for a \$12 donation per dinner. Take-out only is available. Please call 413-967-6100 to reserve meals with a name, the number of dinners wanted and a phone number to call. All proceeds benefit the mission and ministry of the parish.

Are You Old News?

Each week the Ware River News digs into its submitted photo archives and selects a people photo to publish. We need your help to help identify those pictured.

Email your answers by Monday at noon to ekennedy@turley.com.

If anyone recognizes the people in this week's photo, please send the identifications and your full name to ekennedy@turley.com.

The happy hoopsters in last week's photo were in the front row Jocelyn St. Onge, James Martin, Ryan Murphy, Paul Daley and Joey Hebert. In the back row were Coach Joanne Zawalski, Michelle Zawalski, Kieran Fitzgerald, Brett St. Onge and coach Brian St. Onge. They were playing Ware Youth Basketball in the 2009-2010 season.

Program subsidizes internet access, provides Chromobooks for job seekers

By Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

SPRINGFIELD – MassHire Springfield Career Center is offering the Mass Internet Connect Program which provides subsidized internet access to eligible Massachusetts residents through June 30, 2021.

MassHire Springfield's Executive Director Kevin Lynn said the program was launched in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. According to Lynn, lockdowns imposed to contain spread of the virus widened the digital divide that keeps potential workers from employment opportunities because they are unable to visit career centers.

"As the lockdown continued, it became to be a problem," Lynn said.

"If you look at the workforce area, you can't apply for a job unless you do it online, so that means people were effectively shut out of the employment market."



Courtesy photos

The Chromebook Device Subsidy Program provides free devices for unemployed Massachusetts residents in need.

Build a legacy at the Warren Historical Commission

WARREN – Collectors and readers of Warren history admire the work of those who've gone before. The way they built their houses and helped develop the town, the old hotels and taverns, schools, banks and town halls. We've collected photographs, advertising pieces, historical accounts and artifacts. All these items were created by Warren people who were living and working here. It is their legacy. But now what will we leave behind?

Those who serve on the Warren Historical Commission can contribute their knowledge and efforts and leave their mark on the town records. Anyone who would like to create their legacy for future generations to admire should contact the Warren Selectmen and ask to be appointed to the Warren Historical Commission. Or, drop a line to tosgbuck37@verizon.net to inquire for more information.

NOTICE

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Through the Mass Internet Connect Program, each applicant can be eligible for different services, which include a "starter kit," that includes a modem with WiFi capability and a subsidized monthly internet service plan with download speed that vary depending on whether the applicant is served by Comcast or Spectrum.

Unemployed Massachusetts residents who lack a computer can check their eligibility for the Chromebook Device Subsidy Program. This component of the state's economic recovery plan provides eligible applicants a free Chromebook.

Lynn said MassHire Springfield does more than provide connectivity to job-seeking residents who need it, but also access to skills-based education.

"We've perfectly presented, created and are providing virtual workshops that you can take advantage of, to upskill your job search techniques, as well as other computer/technology skills," Lynn said.

"I think that's the real value. It's not just giving you access to the internet or a piece of hardware; It's providing skills that you can learn to upgrade and make yourself more marketable."

Lynn also said for the foreseeable future, at least until the pandemic subsides, MassHire's operations will be all-virtual.

"We have all kinds of trainings available that people can qualify for," he said.

"If you're unemployed, you pretty much can qualify for everything. If anyone's in this situation, this is a great time to skill themselves up to get them back into the labor market."

Anyone interested in applying for the program can visit masshirespringfield.org/micinfo/, email krogowski@masshirespringfield.org or call 413-858-2824.

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SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

Should I put in for Social Security now, or at 70?

By Russell Gloor
Guest columnist

Dear Rusty: I'm currently 67-years-old and still working full time. I took a big financial hit in 2008, which is why I'm still working, and I expect to continue working until I'm 70. My question is: should I take Social Security now, bank it until I'm 70, and then pay it out to myself upon retirement? Or would it be better to hold off until I'm 70 to claim? Longevity of about 85 seems to run in my family.Signed: Working Senior

Dear Working Senior: I'm afraid there's no simple answer to your question, but I'll give you some points to ponder.

If you don't need the money right now, and you expect to enjoy at least average longevity (about 85 for a man your current age), then waiting until you're 70 will give you the maximum monthly benefit and the most in cumulative lifetime Social Security benefits if you meet average longevity. And if you live beyond the average, your cumulative lifetime benefits will be correspondingly more. Since you've already delayed past your full retirement age of 66, you are already earning delayed retirement credits (DRCs) at the rate of 8% for each full year you delay (the maximum Social Security benefit is reached at age 70.

Can you do better than an 8% annual increase by claiming now and saving or investing the money? That would be the main point to evaluate, and only you know your investment options. But you should also consider that if you should die before your wife and she has reached her full retirement age, your wife will get 100% of the benefit you are receiving at your death. If you claim earlier (e.g., now), your wife will get that earlier smaller amount as your widow. Compare that to what she'll get by you waiting until age 70 to claim, when your benefit will be about 24% more than it is now. Again, something for you to consider.

If you claim at age 70 you will have collected about the same amount of money at age 82 as if you had claimed now. That is your "breakeven" point, which is where your expected longevity comes into play. If you think you will beat the average and you do, you'll collect much more in total lifetime Social Security benefits by waiting until you are 70 to claim. Of course, no one knows how long they will live, but if your family history suggests a long life and you're in good health now, delaying is usually a prudent choice. That is, however, a decision only you can make.

This article is intended for informational purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor at AMAC.

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- Please send photo captions identifying all subjects in your image(s) from left to right. We need first and last name, hometown, title, if applicable, and a brief description of what subjects are doing in the photo.
- Email uncorrected, raw, RGB color digital photos at highest resolution directly off your camera, or sized at least 20 inches wide at 72 resolution, 10 inches wide at 200 resolution. They may be emailed as attachments to ekennedy@turley.com.
- Publicity chairpersons are encouraged to send in news about upcoming fundraising or other calendar events at least three weeks before they take place.

We will respond to all email messages received.

If you don't have e-mail, please mail these materials to:
80 Main Street, Ware, MA 01082

The Garden Lady takes on your houseplant questions

Elise, who enjoys reading the column from Brookfield, posed this question to the Garden Lady: "I have a number of scented geraniums in my sun-room that I dug up from my herb garden last summer. They were looking good for awhile, but within the last month their leaves have begun to turn brown. It seems to start with the older foliage, beginning with the leaf margins and working its way in. I keep picking off the bad leaves but more follow suit. Do you have any suggestions as to how I should remedy this?"

Scented geraniums were among the first herbs I ever grew! In fact, at 18 I had a windowsill of them in my bedroom. I loved how they would emit a heavenly fragrance whenever the leaves were rubbed between my thumb and forefinger. Scents like lemon, nutmeg, coconut and rose. Fast forward a few decades and I am blessed with a collection of scented geraniums in the greenhouse at Old Sturbridge Village! Although they looked great a couple of weeks ago, they too have started to show some brown leaves, exactly in the manner you explain.

My first thought is in regards to watering. You see, geraniums can be finicky when it comes to moisture. If you let them get too dry their leaves will brown; too wet and the same thing happens. Sometimes looking at the soil and watering if it "looks" dry isn't the best



Roberta McQuaid

thing to do, and honestly, in my haste, that is what I have been doing lately. I am going back to the "finger test" and only water when the soil is dry to the touch, a few inches into the pot; maybe that will help.

Another point of interest is in regards to chlorinated water. There is some research that indicates geraniums are sensitive to chlorine. If your tap water is heavily chlorinated I would recommend that you fill a watering can with water and let it sit for 24 hours. The chlorine will dissipate before watering. Likewise, you can also run tap water through a charcoal type water filter to rid it of chlorine.

Lastly, our geraniums may be hungry. Beginning in late February and early March, scented geraniums begin to initiate flower buds and require additional nutrients to do so. I'll start feeding with a liquid fertilizer at half strength every two weeks or so to support that need. Hopefully by adopting some of this advice your geraniums will begin to look a bit happier and mine will too!

Frances has a beautiful potted cyclamen and is curious how this particular plant is propagated. "My mother always comments about the beauty of my pink cyclamen. Can I remove a leaf, insert it into the soil and expect it will root, as would an African violet's?"

Florist Cyclamen (Cyclamen persicum) is a delightful indoor plant that flowers during the winter months. Its quarter-sized blooms

in red, pink and white are unique in that the petals are bent back, reflexed even, and held above pretty, heart-shaped, silver-margined leaves. There are varying types available with fancy flowers and intricately patterned foliage.

The cyclamen plant is tuberous and unfortunately is best propagated by seed or by division of its fibrous roots. Usually this task is left to the experts who are best able to deal with erratic germination and roots susceptible to rot.

Recently I became the proud owner of my very first cyclamen (thanks, Mom!). It's always fun to get to learn about the life cycle of a new plant. With the cylumen's bloom time during the winter, it has a period of dormancy mid spring through the end of summer when it's leaves will yellow and shed, and it will demand next to no water. This time frame is opposite of what we are used to with our perennial flowers that bloom during the summer and go dormant during the winter. In late August, begin watering and leaves will sprout anew before blooming begins during the fall.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thanks to James Paugh III

Many thanks to author James Paugh III for helping to record the history of sacrifices made by our WWII veterans. A little known but amazing chapter in American WWII history is documented in the book "Home From Siberia," subtitled "The Secret Odysseys of Interned American Airmen in World War II." One of the contributors to this history was Gilbert S Arnold, a successful tobacco grower in Southwick, Massachusetts. He was one of 291 bomber crewmen forced by aircraft problems to land on the Kamchatka peninsula in Russia. All these airmen were declared prisoners of war by Russia in order to maintain a neutrality truce with Japan. Through months of hardship and relocation, they were secretly smuggled back to the Allies. For more American military history, visit the remarkable American Heritage Museum in Hudson, Massachusetts.

M.Bannish
Brookfield

Editor's Note: If people want to submit their memories of Comins Pond, from long ago or much more recently, the Ware River News would love to print them.

Memories of Comins pond

Swimming at Comins Pond is how we spent most of our summer days, though the



winter season often found us heading that way, sometimes to the ice house. As my own sons and daughter grew up it was ice fishing that called them to the pond. Preparations for a day there were intense. There was food to pack up, including ingredients for beef stew or chowder. Leon Furgal's specialties were enjoyed by many as he never made a small kettle full. The ever-popular hot dogs and kielbasa cooked over an open fire were favorites.

I have been hearing about families spending time, once again, at the pond. On Sunday I was fortunate to be taken there to see for myself. How heartwarming that the parking lot was full. Our local "gem" is a destination, during the year of COVID. Please, share memories if you are one of us who enjoyed days at the pond.

Peg Gorman,
Warren

GUEST COLUMN

History Matters: March 1 to March 15: Helen Keller, Alexander Bell and war dogs

History Matters is a biweekly feature courtesy of The Grateful American Book Prize, which is given to children's books that emphasize the importance of American history.

By John Grimaldi and David Bruce Smith
Guest columnists

Nineteen months after her 1880 birth,Helen Keller contracted scarlet fever, or bacterial meningitis, which left her blind, deaf, and mute. Her parents sought help from Alexander Graham Bell, who was known for his invention of the telephone, but, also, his celebrated work educating the deaf. He introduced the Keller family to the Perkins Institution, it trained people afflicted with "deafblindness" and--facilitated the family's hiring of 20-year-old Annie Sullivan, one of its special needs teachers.

Keller was a stubborn student, but Sullivan was an equally determined teacher.She "spelled" words in Keller's palm--a difficult, and monotonous process--but Sullivan "got through" to Helen--within a few months when Keller felt the water flowing from a pump, and "remembered".

Helen and Teacher stayed together from March 3,1887, until Sullivan's 1936 death.

According to History.com, Keller went on to learn how to read, write and speak. With Sullivan's assistance, her student attended

Radcliffe College, graduated with honors, became a public speaker, and published her first book, "The Story of My Life" in 1903.

For more information about Helen Keller and Anne Sullivan the Grateful American Book Prize recommends "Helen Keller: Humanitarian" by Lois P. Nicholson.

Alexander Graham Bell

On March 7, 1876, Alexander Graham Bell received a patent for his "harmonic telegraph"—or—telephone. Up until then, Samuel Morse's telegraph was the only means of "instantaneous" communication, but Bell had been concentrating on resolving the limitations; it could only handle one message at a time—and it required a courier to deliver the news to the recipient.

The Bell family had immigrated from England to Massachusetts and settled in Boston where Alexander worked as a teacher for the deaf. But he was also the son of an inventor, and, while he was fond of his work as a teacher, he also had an innate desire to devise a way for people to speak "directly" with each other—from a distance. He partnered with Thomas A. Watson, who worked in a machine shop; and when the telephone was completed, he uttered the now famous phrase: "Mr. Watson, come here, I need you."

The Grateful American Book Prize recommends "Telephone: The Invention That Changed Communication," by Samuel Willard Crompton.

Rin Tin Tin

The first Rin Tin Tin to become a movie star was brought home by an American GI from World War I. Apparently, it was the pup of a German "War Dog" that got cast in a 1922 silent movie, "The Man from Hell's River," the first of 27 "Rin Tin Tin" films.

Both sides in the conflict used war dogs, mainly to carry messages. But it wasn't until March 13, 1942, that the first official K-9 Corps was established by the U.S. Army's Quartermaster Corps to train dogs for the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and the Coast Guard.

According to History.com "The K-9 Corps initially accepted over 30 breeds of dogs, but the list was soon narrowed to seven: German shepherds, Belgian sheepdogs, Doberman pinschers, collies, Siberian huskies, Malamutes and Eskimo dogs. Members of the K-9 Corps were trained eight to 12 weeks; then, they were put through one of four specialized programs to prepare them for work as sentry dogs, scout or patrol dogs, messenger dogs or mine-detection dogs. In active combat duty, scout dogs proved especially essential by alerting patrols to the approach of the enemy and preventing surprise attacks."

The Grateful American Book Prize recommends "No Better Friend: Young Readers Edition: A Man, a Dog, and Their Incredible True Story of Friendship and Survival in World War II," by Robert Weintraub.

WARE RIVER NEWS

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Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length, and "Your Turn" guest column between 500-800 words. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require that the person submitting the opinion also include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, or defamation of character.

Send opinions to:
Ware River News
Letter to the Editor
80 Main Street
Ware, MA 01082
or via email to:
ekennedy@turley.com

The deadline for submissions is Monday at noon.

2021Turley Election Policy

This newspaper will print free self-submitted statements of candidacy only four weeks or more out from the election. All candidates running in both contested and uncontested races are asked to submit their statements to the editor to include only biographical and campaign platform details. Total word count for statements is limited to between 300-500 words maximum. Please include a photo. We will not publish any statements of candidacy inside the four weeks from election threshold. To publish any other campaign publicity during the race, please contact our advertising representatives. We also do not allow personal attacks against other candidates or political parties in statements of candidacy, nor do we publish for free any information about key endorsements or political fundraisers.

Letters to the editor of no more than 250 words from supporters endorsing specific candidates or discussing campaign issues are limited to three total per author during the election season. No election letters will appear in the final edition before the election. We reserve the right to edit all statements of candidacy and letters to the editor to meet our guidelines.

EQLT from page 1

Forge National Historic Park in Pennsylvania. More recently, he joined AmeriCorps and became a TerraCorps member with the East Quabbin Land Trust, based in Hardwick. Allison's role with the land trust is that of Youth Education Coordinator, one that he has adapted to quickly despite pandemic challenges.

Allison said some of the things that drew him to the EQLT were the small, rural towns it encompasses. That, and this area is home to the Quinebaug River crayfish, a species that is only found in New England. Allison began his time with the land trust last year by taking families and small groups for "Brookside Adventures," exploring the local waterways in search of freshwater life.

EQLT has built a strong youth education program with children in the area, providing regular programs designed to educate and engage young minds with the natural world. Past programs have included weekly walks among the land trust's vast preserves, bird counts, pollinator gardens, ice fishing, community art projects and more.

In addition to his Brookside Adventures, Allison has formed the East Quabbin Book Rangers, a virtual story time and activity program focusing on environmental topics. Allison said that EQLT Executive Director Cynthia Henshaw pitched the idea of a virtual story time that included reading a book and sharing a video. Allison said he scans the pages of each book, putting it into a slideshow format, to easily show each illustration to his audience during virtual programs. The East Quabbin Book Rangers have approximately 40 families and individuals registered to receive the videos Allison compiles.

Allison then reached out to local libraries to extend the reach of his program. Many libraries were eager to take part and have even provided activity kits to accompany the story, as well as a captive audi-



Hardwick Youth Center members explore the aquatic life beneath the ice during an ice fishing experience at Forest Lake in Palmer.

ence. Allison has hosted live story time events with Fobes Memorial Library in Oakham, Young Men's Library Association (Ware Library) in Ware and the Petersham Memorial Library in Petersham. Story times even extended to "story walks" on the New Braintree Rail Trail. Allison is in the process of scheduling programs with the Paige Memorial Library in Hardwick and Haston Free Public Library in North Brookfield.

Allison has also continued to foster EQLT's relationship with the Hardwick Youth Center, an afterschool program for youth in Hardwick, and the Quabbin Regional High School Envirothon Team. He is especially excited that the Envirothon Team is focusing on freshwater resources, an important focus for anyone concerned with conservation.

With warmer weather arriving soon, Allison is eager to bring his programming back outdoors. He is excited to offer "fact walks" in the spring when amphibians become active. The fact walk would include facts about animals in the habitat and quizzes. For more information about Brookside Adventures,

contact Pat Allison, Youth Education Coordinator at youtheducation@eqlt.org.



East Quabbin Land Trust's Youth Education Coordinator, Pat Allison.



Turley Publications Photos Courtesy of East Quabbin Land Trust
Allison leads a group on one of his Brookside Adventures along the Ware River in Gilbertville.

East Quabbin Book Rangers, or other upcoming programs, people may visit www.eqlt.org, find "East Quabbin Land Trust" on Facebook and Instagram or con-

tact Pat Allison, Youth Education Coordinator at youtheducation@eqlt.org.

Dogs must be licensed by March 31; late fees begin April 1

WARE – State law requires that all dogs six months should be licensed.

Ware Town Hall remains closed to the public, however town employees are working every day and will process individual's requests to license whether the information is left in the drop box located outside the lower level offices or sent to the town clerk's office by U.S. Mail. However, dogs must be licensed before Wednesday, March 31.

On April 1, there will be a late fee of \$15 per dog in addition to the license fee.

If a resident's dog was licensed last year, check the paper license issued at that time, which includes the following:

Each dog listed separately by name.

The expiration of the rabies vaccine listed per dog.

The information about the fee determination, such as male/female or spayed/neutered.

If a resident's dog has a current rabies vaccination and it is no expired, it is not necessary to supply the rabies certificate.

If your dog has received a new rabies vaccination since the dog was licensed in 2020, it will be

necessary to include the new certificate, which will be returned to you when the license is issued.

All requests to license must include any changes to the information on file with the town clerk's office, such as owner name and address, and telephone number.

All requests must also include a self-addressed, postage-paid envelop to return the license and tags to the owner. Be sure to place sufficient postage on the envelope or the post may not deliver it back to the recipient.

The mail address for the town clerk's office is Town Clerk, 126 Main St., Suite F, Ware, MA, 01082.

Anyone licensing their dog for the first time, the following information is needed: rabies certificate that lists the dog as being altered and a self-addressed, postage-paid envelope.

Dog license fees are the same as last year: male/female, \$10, spayed/neutered, \$8.

Any resident who did not license their dog in 2020 will need to call the town directly at 413-967-9648, ext. 177, to discuss the amount owed.

Show off EQLT photos in contest

HARDWICK – The East Quabbin Land Trust will be holding a photo contest through June 1, giving people a chance to capture a little of the natural beauty of the East Quabbin region.

Photos will be presented at a curated outdoor show on June 20. Prizes will include EQLT swag, a gift card to a local business and of course, bragging rights.

All photos must be taken at an EQLT preserve and photos with watermarks will not be accepted. There is no limit to the amount of submissions each per-

son can enter. Submissions may be entered until June 1. EQLT reserves the right to reject a submission for any reason.

To submit, send an email to Jess Cusworth at jcusworth@eqlt.org to request the Dropbox link, which does not require a Dropbox account.

Those submitting should include their last name and the title of their photo in the file name, such as Cusworth_SunriseOnMandellHill.jpg. Then upload the photo through the Dropbox link. Email Jess with any questions.

FEES from page 1

Right now, ratepayers are charged \$36 for the first 500 cubic feet of water they use, and then \$5.75 for each 100 cubic feet of water beyond that. The water rates in both the base rate and the consumption rate were increased in fiscal 2018, fiscal 2020 and fiscal 2021.

The Tighe & Bond water rate evaluation report included estimates on proposed rate increases for each of those options, with both the base rate for the first 500 cubic feet rising as well as the rate for each 100 cubic feet used after the original 500. Each proposes yearly increases from the coming fiscal 2022 through fiscal 2030. The report is on the town's web-

site. St. George-Sorel said depending on only water fees would not work, saying there was no growth in town that would cover the cost of the filtration plant.

He pointed to the proposed closure of Mary Lane, which pays a little over \$18,000 in water fees and almost \$17,000 in sewer fees. BayState Health officials have proposed to end cancer services and emergency services by the end of June, although there are regulatory hurdles in the form of state Department of Public Health hearings still to be held. St. George-Sorel said with almost no growth in water hookups, the projections for paying for the new plant will not pan out.

He also said there are plenty of projects going on in town, includ-

ing the need to pull down 114 Main St., an unsafe building, for the Main Street redesign project to proceed.

He also suggested the town should have plans for an override if everything goes forward so it is prepared for the worst, noting it would give the town financial flexibility.

Later in the meeting after discussing solar projects and cannabis cultivation income in town, the SelectBoard said it would consider dedicating a portion of that income to paying for the new plant.

Town Manager Stuart Beckley said he and Tighe & Bond officials would develop specific water rates to be presented at the next SelectBoard meeting.

Water Resources Committee

The SelectBoard also approved the creation of a Water Resources Committee, and is asking interested residents to send a letter stating why they would like to serve on it, and what experience they would bring to the process to Tom Barnes or Stuart Beckley, Town Hall, 126 Main St., Ware.

The board also tabled discussion of a feasibility report on the town hooking up to the water supply from the Quabbin Reservoir, and will have the Water Resources Committee do the research on it and other water-related topics.

Tighe & Bond prepared the feasibility report, which offers two options to hook up to the water

system that serves not only Boston and its suburbs, but western Mass communities such as Chicopee. The town was offered the chance to connect to the system at the time the Reservoir was made by flooding four towns, but declined.

The report there were two options: one that would be along Route 9, would be estimated at \$28.9 million and a second that would be along Old Belchertown Road, estimated to be about \$22.8 million. A built-in, buy-in fee of \$2.8 million, charged by the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, which oversees the Quabbin Reservoir and the water system.

The report also said the state Department of Environmental Protection does not encourage communities to combine ground

water supply sources and above ground sources such as reservoirs and rivers.

Tighe & Bond also recommend due to the lengthy time it would take to permit and build such a project, it recommends the town move forward with the water filtration plant project.

Exploring the option of connecting to the MWRA's water system was proposed by Barnes, who was looking at it from a water source perspective. He said when he proposed it that it would provide a better source than the wells from which the town water is drawn now, because it has the high levels of iron and manganese, which cause the color and odor problems, and the WMRA water would not.

DIRECTOR from page 1

Judy ran the district. What always stood out to me was how much she seemed to genuinely care about the well-being of all three towns (Ware, Pelham and Belchertown)," he said.

Most recently, Bell worked at the COVID-19 officer in Belchertown beginning last summer.

"As the inspector for the Quabbin Health District, I worked primarily in the enforcement side of the field: food inspections, septic plan reviews, etc.," he said.

With Bell as director, the position of COVID-19 compliance agent will need to be filled.

Before joining the Quabbin Health District, Bell served as a health agent in Milton for a year. There was a two-year gap between his time as a health inspector in the Quabbin Health District and the COVID-19 compliance agent when he lived in Canada.

However, the new position as the as the director district will come with new responsibilities.

"I'll get to oversee that side, but I'll also have the opportunity to get involved in other aspects of the field, like implementing community-wide initiatives designed to improve the health and well-being of everyone in the three towns," Bell said. "I expect the position to be equally challenging and fulfilling, and I'm looking forward to doing my best for the communities in the district."

He is also beginning his tenure as director during a pandemic, which he sees as both intimidating and comforting.

"Taking over for someone with as much knowledge and experience as Judy is a huge job, especially considering how much the Director of Public Health is responsible for," Bell said. "In some ways, the pandemic makes this more intimidating, because it puts that much more on the plate of the director. On the other hand, because the pandemic is something that no one has had to deal with in 100 years, everyone in public health is experiencing this as a novel situation. As I take on this new challenge, there's some comfort in knowing that everyone has to start somewhere and grow into their positions, and the pandemic has really highlighted this fact as we all learn how to get through this together."

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Turley Publications staff photo by Eileen Kennedy

IT’S ALMOST SPRING – REALLY!

WARE – Janine’s Frostee is due to open on March 14, so think thoughts of spring! And ice cream and hot dogs, of course.

Learn about birds, bees and butterflies

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Don’t many of us love to watch the birds, bees and butterflies in our yards and gardens? And most of us are eager for the snow to melt and the flowers to begin appearing. Join the Haston Free Public Library on Thursday, March 11, at 7 p.m., for a 90-minute Zoom presentation offered by landscaper and naturalist John Root to tide everyone over until the flowers and pollinators return.

The presentation describes the essential roles played by pollinators and other beneficial organisms in our ecosystem and offers guidance on meeting their needs for food, cover, and water. In

meeting the needs of birds, pollinators, and other essential wildlife, it’s possible to add beauty and interest to yards and gardens.

Root will discuss a variety of plants that nourish these organisms throughout their life cycles and present organic methods for establishing wildlife habitat. Handouts will be available to download, and comments and questions will be welcome at the conclusion of the program.

Root is the owner of Earthwise Landscaping, in Amherst, which focuses

Please see **HASTON**, page 9

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Pathfinder Superintendent to retire

School Committee selects Eric Duda

PALMER – For the first time since 1974, the Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School District will soon have a change in its top leadership. As a career and technical high school, Pathfinder Tech features 16 technical programs and robust academic offerings, including honors and Advanced Placement courses, to students in the district’s nine member towns of Belchertown, Granby, Hardwick, Monson, New Braintree, Oakham, Palmer, Ware and Warren, as well as to students through non-resident Chapter 74 tuition and school choice.

Superintendent Gerald Paist has served the district for 48 years and plans to retire as of June 30. At the last meeting of the Pathfinder Tech School Committee, members unanimously selected current Assistant Superintendent/Principal Eric Duda as the school’s next superintendent effective July 1, subject to successful contract negotiations. Following the meeting Paist expressed his solid support for the committee’s choice. “I could not think of a better individual to take my place,” he said. “We have had a wonderful relationship and have worked side by side for the past few years; I’m excited about the future!”

Paist began working at Pathfinder Tech in 1974 after serving as a member of the administration at Westfield State College for six years. He was in fact the fourth superintendent for a school that was only 2-years-old, a fact that suggests a rough beginning in the early



in the rigor and diversity of programming.

His effectiveness as a leader has been especially evident through the current pandemic when he found it necessary to respond to multiple federal, state, and local officials with ever changing rules and regulations regarding the health and safety of students and staff. That responsibility has been carried out

Eric Duda

Pathfinder Regional School Superintendent Dr. Gerald Paist is retiring this June after 48 years with the district. Patherfinder Regional Vocational High School Principal Eric Duda, and assistant superintendent, has been chosen to fill the position after Paist retires. Here Paist is seen at Pathfinder's 2018 graduation.

days of the district. For the past several years, he has been the longest serving superintendent in the commonwealth. When asked why has served so long, he said, “It has been a wonderful place to work. We have an extraordinary faculty and staff, students who want to be here, supportive member communities, and a terrific School Committee”

Paist’s tenure at Pathfinder Tech has been marked by periods of growth. Early enrollment in 1973 included approximately 325 students; in recent years, enrollment has increased to over 600 students. In addition, the number of member communi-

ties has expanded from four to nine and the program offerings have risen from ten to sixteen. School Committee Chairperson Julie Quink recently

paid tribute to his work: “The success of Pathfinder and the academic successes of its current and former students have been under your watchful eye and care for nearly a half century,” she said. “The relationships that you have built with community members and member town has created a strong foundation upon which future administration can continue to build in moving Pathfinder forward in new directions and paths.”

Eric Duda himself attended Pathfinder Tech as an electrical student from 1996 to 2000. Following graduation, he enrolled at Western New England University to study electrical engineering and graduated with a bachelor of science degree in 2004. He then worked as an engineer in industry until, by chance, he ran into Paist at a time when Pathfinder Tech was seeking an instructor in electronics technology. With his subsequent hiring for that position, his career at Pathfinder Tech began an upward trajectory.

He served as an electronics instructor from 2006 through 2013, subsequently earning the Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Award and was appointed department head for that program. In recognition for his outstanding teaching and valuable service on a number of committees and activities, he was promoted to vocational director in 2013 where he oversaw instruction and curriculum in all programs. From 2014 to 2017 he also took on the added responsibilities of being a cooperative education director and expanded that program beyond expectations.

During his interview with the committee, he proposed a number of initiatives, including robust outreach efforts to district students and their families; maintaining positive relations with member town officials; updating the school’s strategic plan; and the possibility of new technical programs.

In 2011, Duda earned his master of education degree in school administration from American International College and is currently pursuing his PhD. He enjoys time with his wife, Jen, and their three children.

Pathfinder Tech’s 16 program offerings include advanced manufacturing, automotive technology, business technology, CAD/pre-engineering, carpentry, collision repair, cosmetology, culinary arts, electrical, electronics technology, health assisting, horticulture, hospitality management, HVAC-R, plumbing and programming and web development.

Students interested in being considered for the 2021-2022 school year may submit an application at <https://www.PathfinderTech.org>.

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Courtesy photo

Dr. Walter Temme, Sujoy Spencer and some of the student musicians who assembled for a concert of the Phoenix Youth Symphony, during which Spencer received an excellence in music education award.

Brookfields Rotarian receives Teacher Excellence Award

BROOKFIELDS/WARREN – On Sunday, Feb. 28, the Phoenix Youth Symphony honored our own Sujoy Spencer with the 2021 Dr. Walter Temme Excellence in Music Education Award. The orchestra schedules a tribute concert annually to show appreciation for their music teachers. During this concert one exceptional teacher is singled out for special recognition from nominations submitted by the students.

In introducing the award, a member of the review board commented that “of all the nominations over all the years, this one particularly stood out.”

Sujoy was recognized by her students for exceptional teaching skills, kindness, and generosity; for igniting a passion for musical education. One student nominator praised Sujoy for allowing students to rent one of her violins if the student could not afford their own, and added, “if any student could not afford the payment, no child would be turned away.”

Sujoy grew up in Needham and now splits her year between Phoenix and Brookfield, where her family has summered for decades. Thanks to virtual technology, she currently serves Brookfields Rotary as our co-president elect. Over the years, she has shared her exquisite violin skills to entertain at numerous Rotary events. Professionally, Sujoy is a studio teacher specializing in violin, viola, piano and recorder.

Congratulations to Sujoy on this exceptional recognition from her students and the PYSO. This honor is well deserved.

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Smith reaches 1,000 points in final game

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WARE — Even though the Ware girls and boys basketball teams only played 13 regular season games this winter due to the COVID-19 pandemic, they still managed to make a little bit of history.

Keith Smith, a senior, accomplished the 1,000-point feat in Ware's season finale against Pathfinder, which was a 65-34 home win last Sunday afternoon.

"I was a little bit worried that I wouldn't be able to do it," said Smith. "But my coaches and teammates kept telling me that I was going to get there. It's very special to me, but I couldn't have done it without their help and support."

One of Smith's classmates is Dillon Slattery.

"I've been friends with Keith since we were two years old," Dillon Slattery said. "Watching him score his 1,000 point today was so special for me and I'm very proud of him. I was also teammates with my older brother (Devin) when he scored his 1,000 career point a couple of years ago. It's just an amazing feeling to be a part of it."

John Soltys and Dominic Velazquez were the other two seniors on the Ware varsity boys' basketball team this year.

Welsh, along with Devin Slattery, and Jordan Halgas, who also scored 1,000 career points during her basketball career at Ware High School, watched Smith score his 1,000-career point from the bleachers.

"Smitty is like a third brother to Dillon and I," Devin Slattery said. "There was a lot of weight on his shoulders in today's game. It was awesome to watch him achieve his milestone. He's a talented athlete."

Devin Slattery, who's currently a member of the UMass-Boston baseball team, scored his 1,000th career point when Smith and his younger brother were sophomores.

Indians boys' varsity basketball coach Gene Rich began his teach-



Smith is surrounded by his family after being honored for 1,000 career points on Sunday.

Submitted photos



Keith Smith take a shot on the hoop during Ware's final regular season game against Pathfinder.

ing career at Ware High School in 2000. Smith is the third 1,000-point scorer that Rich has coached. He's also had the last four girls 1,000 points scorers as students in the classroom.

"I'm thrilled that Keith scored his 1,000 point in today's game," Rich said. "His teammates really wanted to help him get there. He's a great kid and we do have a very good relationship. This year's senior class is a special group to me."

Smith, who's an outstanding three-sport athlete, entered his senior basketball season with 829 career points.

Following the Indians, 62-49 home win over Minnechaug, a Division 1 team, last Thursday night, Smith needed to score 57 points in the Indians final two games of the season against Pathfinder in order to reach the milestone.

While his teammates were heading home following last Thursday's victory, Smith spent more than

twenty minutes shooting inside the empty gymnasium.

"My stress level was very high following the Minnechaug game and I really didn't want to leave the gym," he said. "I just thought about everything while I was out there shooting the ball. I also needed to get my stress level down."

Smith also had a conversation with assistant coach Scott Slattery, who's almost like a second father to him.

"I've known Coach Slattery for a long time and I'm also good friends with his two sons," Smith said. "Coach Slattery told me he would bet his house that I would score 1,000 points. That definitely gave me some extra motivation."

Scott Slattery, who's also an assistant football coach and the Indians varsity baseball coach, gave his thoughts about the memorable afternoon.

"This is a great day for a great kid," he said. "Keith has worked

Please see **SMITH**, page 8

Pioneers defense struggles

PALMER — The Pathfinder Regional High School boys basketball team had a tough run in the winter season, going just 1-6. Their defense struggled late in the season, allowing a lot of points to opponents despite having a decent scoring attack. The Pioneers season started late, on Feb. 12, after the team had to wait to be cleared to play due to high-risk COVID status for most of January.



Darren Woward shoots for the Pioneers.



Nick Beaulieu shoots alone on the hoop.



Austin Lagimoniery eyes the basket.

Photos by David Henry
www.sweetdogphotos.com

Jordan Talbot reaches out for a layup.

Wrestling still not cleared for competitions as spring looms

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION — In an effort to fit every sport into the modified high school seasons, the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association decided to move wrestling from the winter to the spring season. With football occurring during the Fall 2 season, it was decided wrestling should take place during the spring.

However, at a recent meeting of MIAA Wrestling Committee, it was announced the Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs had still not cleared the sport of wrestling for Level 3 activity, which allows for competitions to occur. If wrestling is not allowed to have level 3 activity, meets cannot occur.

In the meeting, it was reported that football will be observed during the next three weeks. Due to the close contact involved in football, the EEA will be looking at the sport to compare it to the close contact that will occur in wrestling. Spring sports are set to begin in late April, early May.

According to the minute of the committee meeting, if the EEA makes the decision to move wrestling into the level 3 status, then modifications for the sport will be presented for approval by the MIAA.

Please see **WRESTLING**, page 8

Panthers defeated in Pod 6 semis

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

ASHBURNHAM—Quabbin was one of the six boys basketball team that competed in Central Mass. Pod 6 this winter.

The Panthers were able to defeat four of the five opponents that they faced during the regular season at least once. They swept the two game season series with both Gardner and Narragansett.

The one team that the Panthers had trouble defeating this season is the Oakmont Spartans, who entered the Pod 6 playoffs as the

top-seeded team with an undefeated record.

Following a pair of double-digit losses to Oakmont at the end of January, the fourth-seeded Panthers made the trip to Ashburnham looking to pull off the upset victory against the Spartans. There wouldn't be any upsets in the Pod 6 semifinal game, as Oakmont advanced into the finals with a 41-32 home win in a hard-fought defensive battle, last Wednesday night.

"Oakmont is one of the top teams in Central Mass. this year," said Quabbin head coach Dennis

Dextradeur. "It was a very physical and grinding low scoring game where defense dominated. They were able to take away what we do well, and we were able to take away what they did well. Our players played their hearts out and poured out an effort and tried to upset an outstanding team. We are so proud of every one of them for making the sacrifices to make this season happen."

The Panthers finished the COVID-19 shortened season with a 6-5 record. They won their first

Please see **PANTHERS**, page 8



Submitted photo

Matt Kimball is another hopeful to win the Tri Track this year.

SEEKONK — When the Tri Track Open Modified Series season takes the green flag on May 1 at Monadnock Speedway, the field will be stacked full of talent. One of the talented stars is

rising New Hampshire racer Matthew Kimball, who is a former Mini Stock champion and currently a competitor in the Sportsman Modified division at multiple tracks in the Granite State.

Kimball, who does have limited starts with Tri Track, is hoping to be able to run the entire six-race slate in 2021. His most important goal will be to be consistent, learn more about the Tour-Type Modifieds, and come home with solid top-10 finishes. He also plans to compete full-time at Monadnock in the Apex Racing No. 11 in the track's Sportsman Modifieds and hopes to chase the NASCAR Division I National Championship, if the first few weeks of the season go well.

"It's always good to try and get your name out there and this is a great opportunity to do that," Kimball said. "We want to win races, but we are going to go race-by-race, and see what the schedules look like, so we don't have conflicts. We're going to take this year step-by-step. We would

like to finish top-10 in the Tri Track points."

Kimball, who won the Mini Stock title at Monadnock in 2018, started his career in go-karts, and moved to the Mini Stocks at the age of 13. From there, he sat behind the wheel of a modified at full speed for the first time at age 15, and the experience was different from anything he had dealt with before -- but he found success quickly.

"My dad had a few championships before I took over and it didn't take me too long to adapt to it," Kimball said. "I won my first race just four weeks into the season. I practiced a lot before getting into a race -- ran it towards the end of the year, and during practices, we went out as much as possible. Once you get comfortable in the car, it's like driving any other race

car."

Kimball competes regularly at Monadnock, Hudson Speedway, Claremont Speedway and occasionally Lee USA Speedway, and plans to focus on Monadnock full-time this season, along with Tri Track. Driving the No. 50 machine, Kimball has learned the ropes of the Modified over the last few years, but knows he needs to continue to soak up the environment to be successful at the level of Tri Track competition. He finished sixth and seventh in the two Tri Track races on Monadnock's high-banks last year.

"It's a pretty big difference racing-wise from a Mini Stock to a Modified, but it just takes a few laps to get used to the throttle and the power," Kimball said. "The

Please see **RACE**, page 8

Blue Sox name new general manager

HOLYOKE – Valley Blue Sox President Fred Ciaglo announced the hiring of Kate Avard as the team’s new General Manager.

Avard, 22, will be returning to the Blue Sox organization after interning with the team during the 2016 season. The Easthampton, MA native, originally from Holyoke, is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts Amherst where she earned a B.S. degree in Sport Management from the Isenberg School of Management and a B.S. degree studying kinesiology from the School of Public Health and Health Sciences.

“We’re very excited to appoint Kate as our new General Manager,” said Ciaglo. “Having previously

served as one of our interns, she knows the culture and community-oriented mission of our organization. Given her education in sport management, Kate will bring strong business fundamentals, creativity and a passion for baseball to the Blue Sox front office.”

While at UMass Amherst, Avard served as the Intramural Special Events Assistant and held multiple internships within the Athletic Department. After graduating from UMass Amherst, Avard enrolled in graduate courses studying athletic training and emergency medicine at Boston University.

Avard is eager to return to MacKenzie Stadium and expand her role with the organization.

“Growing up in Holyoke, I

attended many Holyoke Giants games, then later Blue Sox games, with my family which is where I fell in love with the sport of baseball,” said Avard. I later interned with the team and saw firsthand the positive influence the team had on the local families and local community, similar to what I had personally experienced growing up,” she added.

“The Blue Sox reputation has grown tremendously over the past few years, making the team a staple throughout Western Mass, said Avard. “Stepping into the role of General Manager, I hope I am able to build upon the relationship the organization has with the community and grow the team in the coming years.”

Nominees for volleyball hall announced

HOLYOKE – The list of 25 nominees for the International Volleyball Hall of Fame 2021 Induction has been announced and the Fan Vote presented by Mizuno is now officially open through Feb. 28.

Fans can vote daily for as many nominees as they feel are deserving of Induction. The top 5 nominees selected by the public will comprise a “fans’ ballot” that will be tallied along with the official selection committee ballots to pick the Class of 2021 inductees. “These 25 nominees represent 11 different countries and some of the biggest names in volleyball from the past two decades and beyond,” said George Mulry, Executive Director of the International Volleyball Hall of Fame. “Having to skip the 2020 class of Inductees because of COVID has created a bit of a backlog that’s resulted in perhaps the strongest list of nominees top to bottom we’ve ever had. I think it’s going to be really hard for people to nar-

row down their Fan Vote selections but it will also make this year’s Induction that much more special for the selected class.” The new class of Inductees will be announced in March and the 2021 Induction Celebration is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 23 and will be live streamed for anyone that cannot travel to Holyoke. Induction Celebration tickets will go on sale when the new class is announced.

The nominees are: Taismary Agüero, Dr. Rolf Andresen, Manuela Benelli, Gianfranco Briani, Julius Brink and Jonas Reckermann, Dr. Gabriel Cherebetiu, Sergio Dutra Santos, Giovane Gavio, Linda Hanley, Barbara Jelic-Ruzic, Pieter Joon, Siegfried Kohler, Peter Lange, Andre Meyer, Samuele Papi, Carmelo Pittera, Bernardo Rezende, Todd Rogers, Yumilka Ruiz, Ricardo Santos, Clay Stanley, Sergey Tetyukhin, Logan Tom, Fernanda Venturini, and Elaine Youngs.

Sign-ups now available for 2021 Relics softball

LUDLOW – The Western Mass Relics has opened registration for the 2021 Senior Softball Season. The Silver Division (age 50 to 64) has filled 36 of the 112 spots and the Gold Division (65-and-up) has filled 32 of the 96 spots. The registrations are accepted on a first come first serve basis. All our games are played at the Fish & Game in Ludlow. For further information or to register go to <http://www.westernmassrelics.org>.

WRESTLING from page 7

In addition to observation of football, the status of vaccination in the Commonwealth will also play into the lifting of restrictions at the state level. It was recently announced large sports venues like Fenway Park would be allowed to open beginning March 22 at 12 percent capacity as part of the beginning of Phase 4 of the state’s re-opening plan.

Hampshire association seeking umpires

REGION – The Hampshire Franklin Baseball Umpire Association (HFBUA) is planning to conduct classes for the 2021 baseball season following all recommended COVID-19 protocols including the possibility of on-line

instruction. The association covers umpiring of scholastic baseball for all of Hampshire and Franklin county schools registered under MIAA and several other baseball leagues in the area. If you are interested in umpiring baseball

or obtaining further information regarding the upcoming classes please contact Roger Booth - Secretary/Treasurer of the HFBUA via email at quilthunter@comcast.net.

PANTHERS from page 7

three games of the regular season and the final three. The two winning streaks were sandwiched around a four-game losing streak.

“We did have a winning season,” Dextradeur said. “We beat Fitchburg and Leominster, who are both Division I teams.”

Dextradeur, who wrapped up his 29th season coaching the boys’ varsity basketball team at his alma mater, will be coaching a bunch of first-year varsity players next year. Seven of the players listed on this year’s varsity roster will be receiving their diplomas in June.

“Our senior’s contributions are immense to our team and our entire basketball program,” Dextradeur said. “Their influence on the younger players transcends the successes they have produce on the court.”

The Panthers seven seniors did accomplish a lot on the court during their high school careers.

“As underclassmen the seniors helped us win the league champi-

onship and qualify for the Clark Tournament. They also took us to the Western Mass. semi-finals as complimentary players to a great group of seniors last year,” Dextradeur added. “They led us to another winning season this year in an extremely competitive pod and every game was a battle.”

Senior’s Shea Skowyrza and Devin Pride each scored a team-high 11 points in Quabbin’s semifinal loss to Oakmont.

Skowyrza, who was a co-captain, along with senior Brendan Whitelaw, just missed recording a double-double in his final high school basketball game. He pulled down a total of 9 rebounds. Skowyrza is planning on playing college basketball at the University of New England next year.

Senior Ryan Kowal chipped in with 8 points in the semifinal game with the help of two 3-pointers.

The other members of the senior class are Ryan Wagher, Jake Sherblom, and Nick Farrell.

Junior Connor Geary (2 points) contributed with five rebounds,

five assists, and three steals in the semifinal game. Geary will be one of the Panthers key varsity players during the 2021-22 campaign and he has the potential to play basketball at the next level.

The other Panthers returning varsity players next year will be sophomore Cam Hoekstra, junior Aiden Notarogiacomo, freshman Chris Prunesti-Leveille, and sophomore Aiden Welch.

Quabbin trailed Oakmont, 11-9, at the end of the first quarter.

The Spartans, who held a 20-14 halftime lead, outscored the Panthers 21-18 during the second half.

“We trailed by six points at the half,” Dextradeur said “We were able to keep it a one-two possession game until the end.”

Even though the Panthers didn’t have the opportunity to play in the Western Mass. Division 2 tournament again because of COVID-19, they still had a winning season this year.

SMITH from page 7

really hard, especially during the past two games, to reach this milestone. He’s like another son to me and everyone is very happy for him. He joined an elite group of basketball players today.”

Smith was hoping to score in the mid-20’s in last Saturday’s game versus Pathfinder. He wound up scoring a career-high 37 points in the home victory. It also left him twenty points away from reaching the magic number entering Sunday’s contest.

“I never thought that I would be able to score 37 points in a game,” Smith said. “All of my shots were just falling in yesterday’s game.”

Smith began last Sunday’s contest with a pair of lay-ups during the first three minutes of the opening quarter.

With 11 seconds remaining in the opening quarter, Smith was fouled while making another lay-up before falling to the ground. He also made the bonus free throw putting him 13 points away from

the history books.

Smith scored seven more points during the second stanza, which left him only six points away entering the second half.

He made another lay-up less than a minute into the third quarter, which increased the Indians lead to 33-13.

Just like at the end of the first quarter, Smith was fouled on a lay-up and his made free throw attempt gave him 999 career points with 6:36 left in the third quarter.

The magic moment took place with 5:39 left in the quarter when Smith buried a jumper from the right corner.

“I was shaking after I made that shot in the corner,” Smith said. “It was a very special moment for me.”

The game was stopped at that point, as Smith was congratulated by the Indians coaching staff, his teammates, his parents (Keith and Julie), younger sister (Emily), and several other family members.

Smith also made a 3-pointer from the left corner and he finished his final varsity basketball game

with a team-high 24 points.

While Smith walked out of the Ware High School gymnasium on top of the world last Sunday afternoon, he did experience some low points along the way.

He was academically ineligible for the first three games and wound up only playing ten games this season.

“I messed up in the classroom during the first quarter of the school year and I paid the price by missing the first three games of the season,” Smith said. “I did do better academically during the second quarter, and it was definitely a journey to get here.”

Smith, who reached double digits in every game he played in this winter, had just a day to enjoy his basketball accomplishment. The Indians first football practice of the new Fall II season was held the following afternoon. Smith will be wrapping up his outstanding high school athletic career as a member of the varsity baseball team this spring.

James N. Durand

WARREN – James N. Durand passed away on Feb. 10, 2021, at the age of 79. A lifelong native of Warren, he graduated from Warren High School, Holyoke Community College and attended UMass Amherst. He was proud to have served four years in the Marine Corps, earning the rank of Corporal. After retiring from Hardwick Knitted Fabrics, Jim was a substitute teacher at Quaboag Regional High School for eight years.

Known for his quick wit and sense of humor, he enjoyed hearing people laugh. Jim deeply loved his family, his Irish heritage, to dance, all music (especially doo-wop and The Rolling Stones), hockey, history, animals and politics.

Jim was the adored husband of Cathy (Granlund) Durand, sharing their lives together for 48 years. Beloved dad to six children: Renee Chisholm (Ed), Danielle Cooper (Kris), Kristin Smith (Eric), Christopher Jones (Becky), Matthew Durand, and Justin Brown Durand (Ashley). Grandfather (Nemer) to 16 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. He leaves his brother, Robert Durand (Florence), and sister, Maryellen Anderson (John), brothers-in-law, Stephen Granlund (Barb), and Tim Granlund (Lynn). He also leaves many nieces and nephews. Jim was predeceased by his parents, Bertram and Mary (Madigan) Durand.

The profound void in our lives from losing this incredible man is beyond words. He will be loved and missed forever and a day. Semper Fi, my love.

Pauline Sophie Gagnon

WEST WARREN – Pauline Sophie (Fijol) Gagnon, age 93, passed away suddenly on Thursday afternoon, Feb. 25, 2021, at Harrington Memorial Hospital in Southbridge. Pauline was born in Ware on June 1, 1927, daughter of the late John and Sophie (Magiera) Fijol, of West Warren. She was raised and educated in West Warren, and was a 1945 graduate of the former Warren High School.

Pauline met and eventually married the late Norman E. Gagnon in 1948 at the Holy Cross Polish National Catholic Church in Ware. Norman was enlisted with the United States Army and was stationed all over the United States and in Austria. Pauline was a true Army wife and with her children lived wherever Norman was stationed. She developed a talent for hand sewing at this time, and made many intricate hand-sewn articles.

obituaries

Ware River News

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

Death notices

James N. Durand

Feb. 10, 2021

No services

Gagnon, Pauline Sophie

Died: Feb. 25, 2021

Requiem Mass: March 3

Holy Cross Polish National Catholic Church

Ware

Per Jim’s wishes, there will be no services. A private celebration of his life will be held at a future date when COVID-19 is no longer a threat. Cebula Funeral Home assisted Jim’s family with the final arrangements. For more information and online guest book please visit www.cebulafuneralhome.com.

Ware to receive cybersecurity training grant

BOSTON- State Sen. Anne Gobi, D-Spencer, joined the Baker-Polito Administration in announcing today the second round of award recipients for the Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program, which include Ware. The town will be able to provide 55 employees with online training materials that provide a variety of cybersecurity attack simulations that are commonly used by cyber criminals to gain access to IT Systems and data.

“I am glad to see the release of this funding to aid in training our municipal employees to be aware of and fend against cyber attacks,”

Security and is funded with \$250,000 of capital IT authorizations from Gov. Baker’s General Governmental Bond Bill, which the Legislature passed into law in 2020 to invest in commonwealth cybersecurity and IT infrastructure modernization initiatives.

Participating employees will be provided access to cyber training that will include simulated attacks to best prepare municipal and public school workforces to defend against potential cyber threats.

For more information on the grant program, please visit <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-the-cybersecurity-awareness-program>.

RACE from page 7

biggest difference is the tone of the race. It’s a lot different trying to save your tires, versus a crate car, where you go hard the whole time. I still have to figure it out. I have to figure out adjustments to make it last more than 80 laps, so we are there at the end. A lot of it is experience -- you don’t really see many guys jump in a tour car and just be there at the end.”

He’s excited to continue to race with the talented field Tri Track offers, and is looking forward to visiting Seekonk Speedway for the first time in his career. Tri Track’s 2021 schedule includes two stops at Monadnock, his home-track, two at Seekonk and two at Star Speedway, where Kimball has limited laps.

“It’s a lot different racing against the big names, but they were in the same shoes we were at one point in their career,” Kimball said. “I’ve never even been to Seekonk, so that will be tough. But I feel confident in Monadnock and

I’ve won at Star in the Mini Stock. The difference at Star with a car with a lot more power will require a different line and everything. It should be a lot of figuring out different setups this year.”

With support from his family and friends, and his sponsors, Kimball wouldn’t be able to drive on the track. His sponsors include APEX Racing, KRJ Jewelry, Edmunds Ace Hardware, Peterboro Tools, Tyler’s Small Engines, Trends of Fashion, Birch Wood Inn, Beangroup and more. He’s lucky to have a stout list of supports behind him to help him compete at a high-level.

“I’m just going to be playing it by ear and get the cars ready and go for Monadnock. I’ll be running three races in that same weekend,” Kimball said. “Between the two Sportsman Modified races and the Tri Track race, it will be a busy weekend. I’m also going to be able to race my dad, who will run our family car in a few races this year. I’ve beaten him three times, and he’s beaten me once, so hopefully

I can keep the good streak going. I’m just hoping to be there at the end of each race this year.”

Kimball is just one of more than 15 drivers who have already registered to compete in the entire Tri Track slate for the 2021 season. Registration is open and teams can register at TriTrackModifieds.com/team-info. Teams have the option to either sign-up for the whole season or just one single race.

The Tri Track Open Modified Series will visit three historic New England tracks, twice each, to make up the six-race schedule for 2021. The series will stop at Monadnock Speedway in Winchester, New Hampshire on May 1 and August 14, while visiting Star Speedway in Epping, New Hampshire on May 22 and July 24. The anticipated return to Seekonk Speedway, scheduled for June 30 and October 23, will mark two staple events -- the \$10,000 to win Open Wheel Wednesday in June and the Haunted Hundred to wrap the season.



Wayne Burston



Dylan Croft



Courtesy photos by the Ware Police Departments

Nicholle Downey

Three people arrested on drug charges

WARE – Three people were arrested Friday, Feb. 25, and charged with making and selling crack cocaine, after a long investigation, according to police officials.

After an investigation Ware and Monson police executed a search warrant at 390 Monson Turnpike Road on Feb. 25, where they said they found crack cocaine, suboxone and other drug paraphernalia. Additional

evidence consistent with crack cocaine manufacturing was also found, police said.

Arrested was Wayne Burston, 37, who was charged with possession with intent to distribute a class B drug, cocaine, subsequent offense; manufacturing a class B drug, crack cocaine, possession of a Class B drug, suboxone, and conspiracy to violate drug laws.

Also arrested were Nicholle Downey, 44, and Dylan Croft, 29,

who were both charged with manufacturing a class B drug, crack cocaine, possession of a class B drug, crack cocaine and conspiracy to violate drug laws.

Burston was ordered held without bail until his arraignment in the Easter Hampshire District Courthouse, in Belchertown, on Friday, Feb. 26. Downey and Croft were released on personal recognizance until their arraignment on Feb. 26

Ware Police Log

Monday, Feb. 22

1:33 a.m. Alarm Fire North Street – Referred to Other Agency

7:24 a.m. Missing Person North Street – Services Rendered

9:48 a.m. Missing Person Pulaski Street – Services Rendered

11:44 a.m. Sudden Death Report Anderson Road – Services Rendered

8:39 p.m. Ambulance Request Quarry Street – Referred to Other Agency

8:49 p.m. Ambulance Request Eagle Street – Referred to Other Agency

Tuesday, Feb. 23

6:51 a.m. Motor Vehicle Violation Belchertown Road – Citation Issued

9:38 a.m. Ambulance Request Church Street – Services Rendered

10:56 a.m. Ambulance Request Maple Street – Services Rendered

6:35 p.m. Abandoned, 911 Call West Street – Services Rendered

Wednesday, Feb. 24

3:53 a.m. Parking Complaint North Street – Citation Issued

3:58 a.m. Parking Complaint Aspen Street – Citation Issued

4:29 a.m. Motor Vehicle Violation Eagle Street – Written Warning

4:41 a.m. Parking Complaint West Main Street – Citation Issued

4:49 a.m. Parking Complaint Cherry Street – Citation Issued

8:01 a.m. Ambulance Request Highland Village – Services Rendered

9:17 a.m. Motor Vehicle Violation East Street – Written Warning

1:26 p.m. Ambulance Request Church Street – Services Rendered

7:06 p.m. Ambulance Request South Street – Services Rendered

7:27 p.m. Abandoned, 911 Call North Street – Services Rendered

7:59 p.m. Alarm Burglar West Street – Services Rendered

10 p.m. Motor Vehicle Violation East Main Street – Written Warning

Thursday, Feb. 25

7:03 a.m. Investigation Monson Turnpike Road – Arrest, Felony Charge

Arrest: Wayne J. Burston, 37, Ware

Drug, Possess to Distribute Class B, Subsequent c94C §32A(b); Manufacture Class B Drug; Conspiracy to Violate Drug Law; Drug, Possess Class B, Subsequent Offense

Arrest: Dylan S. Croft, 29, Ware

Manufacture Class B Drug; Conspiracy to Violate Drug Law; Drug, Possess Class B

Arrest: Nicholle C. Downey, 43, Ware

Manufacture Class B Drug; Drug, Possess Class B; Conspiracy to Violate Drug Law

10:33 a.m. Abandoned, 911 Call Aspen Street – Services Rendered

10:37 a.m. Fraud Hillside Village – Services Rendered

11:07 a.m. Motor Vehicle Violation Church Street – Written Warning

7:29 p.m. Ambulance Request West Street – Referred to Other Agency

9:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Violation East Street – Written Warning

10:34 p.m. Accident, Vehicle Babcock Tavern Road – Motor Vehicle Accident Over \$1,000

Friday, Feb. 26

2:32 a.m. Alarm Burglar West Street – Services Rendered

6:06 a.m. Harassment Complaint High Street – Services Rendered

9:05 a.m. Motor Vehicle Violation Church Street – Written Warning

11:38 a.m. Ambulance Request Highland Village – Services Rendered

12:03 p.m. Ambulance Request Otis Avenue – Services Rendered

1:26 p.m. Harassment Complaint North Street – Services Rendered

7 p.m. Ambulance Request Cherry Street – Referred to Other Agency

7:51 p.m. Abandoned, 911 Call North Street – Services Rendered

8:11 p.m. Ambulance Request North Street – Services Rendered

Saturday, Feb. 27

12:07 a.m. Ambulance Request North Street – Referred to Other Agency

8:21 a.m. Ambulance Request

South Street – Services Rendered

9:07 a.m. Motor Vehicle Violation Church Street – Written Warning

9:28 a.m. Motor Vehicle Violation Belchertown Road – Written Warning

1:37 p.m. Motor Vehicle Violation Main Street – Written Warning

2:21 p.m. Motor Vehicle Violation West Street – Criminal Complaint Issued

2:37 p.m. Motor Vehicle Violation West Street – Criminal Complaint Issued

2:56 p.m. Motor Vehicle Violation Main Street – Criminal Complaint Issued

3:23 p.m. Ambulance Request Bank Street – Referred to Other Agency

6:41 p.m. Ambulance Request West Street – Services Rendered

6:44 p.m. Ambulance Request Belchertown Road – Referred to Other Agency

7:04 p.m. Harassment Complaint Dale Street – Advised Civil Action

7:35 p.m. Ambulance Request Maple Street – Referred to Other Agency

11:27 p.m. Accident, Vehicle West Main Street – Investigated, Report Filed

Sunday, Feb. 28

3:40 a.m. Ambulance Request Highland Village – Services Rendered

5:21 a.m. Parking Complaint Main Street – Citation Issued

5:31 p.m. Parking Complaint North Street – Citation Issued

2:37 p.m. Ambulance Request Cherry Street – Referred to Other Agency

7:10 p.m. Ambulance Request Pulaski Street – Referred to Other Agency

8:26 p.m. Ambulance Request Belchertown Road – Referred to Other Agency

8:35 p.m. Ambulance Request Pulaski Street – Services Rendered

Monday, March 1

1:14 a.m. Fire, Report Sunny Hill Drive – Referred to Other Agency

4 a.m. Parking Complaint Aspen Street – Citation Issued

Warren Police Log

Sunday, Feb. 21

9:18 p.m. Complaint Southbridge Road – Officer Advised

Monday, Feb. 22

4:39 p.m. Breathing Difficulty Brimfield Road – Ambulance Signed Refusal

7:45 p.m. Sick/Unknown Mechanic Street – Transported to Hospital

Tuesday, Feb. 23

4:53 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Boston Post Road – Written Warning

Wednesday, Feb. 24

8:44 a.m. Gynecology/OB/Pregnancy North Street – Transported to Hospital

3 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Southbridge Road – Arrest(s) Made

Arrest: Sarah L. Landrie, 43, Southbridge

Fugitive from Justice on Court Warrant

3:08 p.m. Illegal Dumping Comins Pond Road – Report Filed

3:33 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop

Southbridge Road – Citation Issued

4:21 p.m. Fraud/Forgery Main Street – Report Filed

Thursday, Feb. 25

4:34 p.m. Fire, Public Service Call Reed Street – Services Rendered

5:15 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Citation Issued

6:54 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Written Warning

7:01 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Citation Issued

9:11 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Written Warning

Friday, Feb. 26

8:41 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Written Warning

9:31 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Written Warning

10:19 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Citation Issued

10:52 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Citation Issued

11:11 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Written Warning

11:55 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Written Warning

10 p.m. Stolen Vehicle Town

Editor's Note: People in this country are presumed to be innocent until found guilty in a court of law. Police provide us with the information you read on this page as public record information. If you or any suspect listed here is found not guilty or has charges dropped or reduced, we will gladly print that information as a follow-up upon being presented with documented proof of the court's final disposition.

Farm Road – Investigation (On-Going)

Saturday, Feb. 27

2:21 p.m. Welfare Check Crescent Street – Transported to Hospital

3:25 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Burbank Avenue – Report Filed

Hardwick Police Log

For the week of Feb. 22-March 1, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department conducted 85 building/property checks, seven emergency 911 calls, 11 radar assignments, 19 directed/area patrols, one scam, two safety hazards, two animal calls, 15 traffic controls and 19 motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

Monday, Feb. 22

11:05 a.m. Phone – Scam North Road – Spoken To

Tuesday, Feb. 23

12:38 p.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Main Street – Transported to Hospital

Wednesday, Feb. 24

1:55 a.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Broad Street – Transported to Hospital

Thursday, Feb. 25

6:56 a.m. Phone – Medical Alarm Highland Terrace – Transported to Hospital

Friday, Feb. 26

6:01 a.m. 911 – Misdial Barre Road – Spoken To

4:08 p.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Collins Road – Services Rendered

5:40 p.m. 911 – Animal Call Ruggles Hill Road – Taken to Family/Guardian

Saturday, Feb. 27

3:26 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Lower Road – Citation Issued

3:38 p.m. 911 – Elevator Call/Alarms Old Petersham Road – Spoken To

7:31 p.m. Phone – Alarm Hardwick Road – Transported to Hospital

11:09 p.m. Phone – Safety Hazard Rte. 32 – Taken/Referred to Other Agency

Sunday, Feb. 28

8:31 a.m. Initiated – Safety Hazard Barre Road – Removed Hazard

8:58 a.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Church Lane – Transported to Hospital

New Braintree Police Log

For the week of Feb. 22-March 1, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department conducted 24 building/property checks, six radar assignments, one motor vehicle stop, 24 directed/area patrols, 10 traffic controls, one motor vehicle accident, one safety call and four emergency 911 calls in the town of New Braintree.

Monday, Feb. 22

10:04 a.m. Initiated – Fire, Chimney Utley Road – Extinguished

3:55 p.m. 911 – Motor Vehicle Accident West Road – Transported to Hospital

Wednesday, Feb. 24

5:30 a.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Hardwick Road – Transported to Hospital

Friday, Feb. 26

9 a.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Hardwick Road – Transported to Hospital

1:22 p.m. Initiated – Safety

Hazard West Brookfield Road – Removed Hazard

1:33 p.m. 911 – Misdial Old Wine Road – Checked/Secured

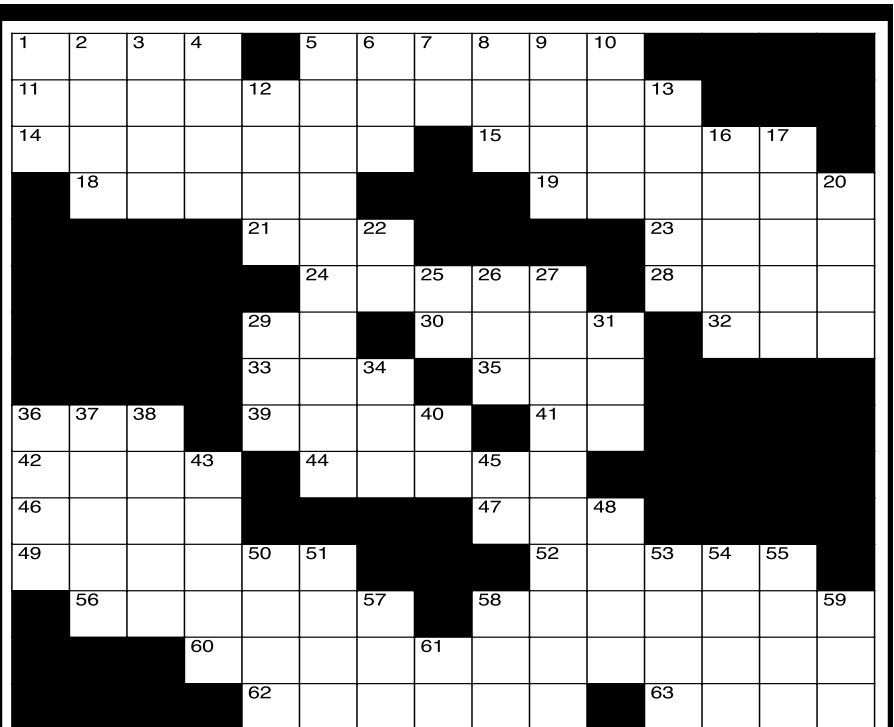
Sunday, Feb. 28

6:45 p.m. Phone – Neighbor Dispute Ravine Road – Spoken To

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Ware River News



CLUES ACROSS

- One of Noah's sons
- Openings
- Rising from the dead
- Expressions for humorous effect
- North American country
- Flowed over
- Tags
- Long-lasting light bulb
- Off-Broadway theater award
- Khoikhoi peoples
- Beloved movie pig
- South Dakota
- Tai language
- Get free of
- Afflict
- Transmits genetic information from DNA
- Commercials

39. Digits

- Expression of sympathy
- Bleats
- Swiss Nobel Peace Prize winner
- Vegetable
- Turf
- Disorganized in character
- Takes
- Rules over
- More fervid
- Sweet drink
- Cry loudly
- A friendly nation

CLUES DOWN

- A title of respect in India
- His and ___
- Employee stock ownership plan
- A type of bond

(abbr.)

- Acting as if you are
- Affirmative
- Not caps
- Type of medication
- Monetary unit
- Private school in New York
- Small stream
- A person of wealth
- Exclude
- Someone who vouches for you
- Vegetable part
- Gov't lawyer
- Term to address a woman
- Swiss river
- About senator
- ___ Paulo, city
- Native American tribe
- "Titanic" actor
- Campaign for students' rights

(abbr.)

- Capital of Senegal
- Slang for military leader
- Football's big game
- Women who threw themselves on funeral pyres
- Equally
- Forest animal
- Heavy stoves
- Releasing hormone (abbr.)
- Song
- Type of pickle
- Offer in return for money
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Burns wood (abbr.)
- Beloved singer Charles
- Three-toed sloth

HASTON from page 6

on establishing appealing and productive landscapes that welcome wildlife and foster intimate connections with nature for people of all ages. His lecture topics include songbirds of the Northeast, hummingbirds of the Americas, butterflies of the world, edible wild plants of the Northeast, mushrooms of the Northeast, organic gardening for everyone and edible perennial gardening and landscaping.

In addition to landscaping and lecturing about nature, he is also a vocalist and multi-instrumentalist who presents programs featuring popular music from the first half of the 20th century for audiences of all ages at libraries, historical societies, schools, senior centers, long term care residences and other venues throughout New England.

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Proceeds To Benefit the Palmer Public Library

1% cap on virtual academy enrollment voted in

By Ellenor Downer
Staff Writer

BARRE – The Quabbin Regional School District Committee met last Thursday to discuss two agenda items. School Superintendent Sheila Muir said the Quabbin District has 25 students or 1.7% of its total students enrolled in two fully accredited online schools. Thirteen attend the Massachusetts Virtual Academy in Greenfield and 11 attend TEC Connections Academy Commonwealth Virtual School, also known as TECCA, in East Walpole. Five of the students are scheduled to graduate this year. The superintendent said Gov. Charlie Baker and Commissioner of Education Jeffrey Riley want all students in school next year and it would not be possible to offer virtual learning to students next year. She said the dis-

trict’s enrollment in the virtual academy could increase next year. State law allowed school districts to vote for a 1% cap of its total enrollment for online schools. The Quabbin District was one of only 24 districts in the commonwealth, which had more than 1% enrolled in the online schools. “We are a minority,” Muir said. Cheryl Duval, director of administrative services, said the school paid \$8,666 per student plus an administrative fee in tuition for each student and an assessment based on needs for special education students attending. The superintendent said if the committee voted the 1% cap, the vote would not affect the students already attending. Committee Vice Chair Mark Brophy inquired about the possibility of Quabbin holding a virtual academy. The superintendent said there was some cursory discussion on the topic,

but more research was needed. The committee voted in favor of the cap ,with Hubbardston School Committee member William Hansen voting no. He said he would not want to restrict families who wanted this program.

MCAS testing

The second topic was the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System testing. Last year, the federal government waived testing due to the pandemic. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education did not anticipate a waiver for this year. DESE reduced test time for testing this spring. Muir said it was highly unlikely schools would have an option not to take MCAS tests this year. Remote students would either take the test remotely with consent for monitoring or attend school for the tests.

Teachers would need to take time away from the classroom to monitor the tests. Middle/high School Principal Greg Devine said the logistics to administrator the MCAS testing with the hybrid model would be a nightmare. He said it would not promote social, emotional well-being of the students. Normally, ninth graders take the biology test, the same year they take the course. This year they would be taking that portion of the MCAS as 10th-graders. Eleventh-graders would be taking the English Language Art and math sections this year instead of as 10th graders. Hardwick Elementary School Principal Shelly St. George said teachers would have to prepare the students for standardized tests, maintain six-foot social distancing and alter schedules, lunches and staffing.

CHAMBER from page 1

tant and campaign staffer, including work that helped a candidate win a West Springfield mayoral race, as well as marketing and fundraising for non-profits and civic advocacy training. He served two recent terms on the Westfield City Council and still resides in Westfield, close to his immediate family. “COVID took its toll on many local small businesses and our chamber was not left off that list,” QHCC President Lena Buteau said.“However, during this time, the QHCC Executive Board dug in its heels hard by spending countless hours dedicated to the chamber’s survival in order to ensure our member community had our help and support when they needed it most. The Executive Board clearly understood that in order for the chamber to continue our mission and vision focus for 2021, we had to hire someone with the same mindset and who had the experience and connections to make it all come together. We were extremely fortunate to have found Andrew Surprise, and honestly could not have asked for anyone more qualified.”

Government

With his blended background in the public and private sectors, Surprise said he knows how government can be a friend to business, and how it can get in the way. In addition to outreach and advocacy, a big part of his focus is bringing government officials, business leaders, and residents together to discuss their concerns and find ways to work in the best interests of all. Addressing zoning issues, taxes, planning, and emphasizing a symbiotic relationship between the public education and business communities are all included in his immediate plans for the QHCC. “I absolutely am open to issue advocacy right now,” Surprise said. Zoning might seem like an intimidating bureaucratic maze to most people, but those types of laws can have a lasting impact on a community. They can be a key to opening economic growth. “Having come from being a city councilor, I can tell you zoning needs to change,” Surprise said. “Obviously, it’s up to the community what they want to do with it. But certainly, zoning has been a huge issue for municipalities all over the state. There were some changes to the zoning laws recently making it easier for lower-income housing. I know a lot of communities do have concerns about that, but I would say that in particular, in those rural areas, the zoning does matter, particularly farmland. If it’s not zoned

correctly, someone who owns land in a rural area may be paying more taxes than they need to be paying. And that’s certainly something that the chamber can work on with those communities to make sure that the zoning regulations are in line with what their community wants to develop. And certainly coming from government myself, I do have some knowledge of that.”

Struggling to survive

At the top of the agenda is finding ways to help chamber members stay afloat while riding out the pandemic, such as connecting them with public grants and other assistance. “You’d be surprised what \$5,000 or \$10,000 can mean to a small business proprietor,” Surprise said. “It helps keep the lights on for another month and helps pay the rent. Those small amounts really do matter to our small businesses.” He said the chamber also wants to make sure elected officials are aware of the business community’s needs going forward. “That’s what we’re working on right now,” Surprise said. “We’re currently putting together a plan and, coming from the political sphere, one thing I know as a former elected official is that elected officials don’t necessarily take notice of an issue unless somebody tells them about it. And once they know there’s a problem, they can work to fix it. I contacted some of our state legislators. There are some I still have to engage with, but we’ve got the majority of the delegation that serves the region coming to our virtual legislative meeting,” which occurred last week. “And we’re hoping to do this at least two or three times a year going forward, hopefully in person,” Surprise said. “The goal is just to engage with the business community, with our legislators, and see what they think is going to happen. There’s still a lot of uncertainty, at least in the general public and in the business community. And it’s hard for businesses to make plans when they don’t know necessarily what’s going to happen in the next two or three months, let alone the next year. I did ask them to bring some information on any potential grants, programs, or government services that especially can assist the small business community because that’s who’s really suffering.”

Looking ahead

Once the economy stabilizes and the focus shifts to growing existing businesses and attracting new ones, Surprise said he wants to help the chamber explore new opportunities for the communities it serves, such as manufacturing. That includes forging partnerships with

school systems and emphasizing vocational training so a skilled workforce is in place whenever new jobs are created. “One thing I want to focus on is regional economic development,” Surprise said. “Something I’ve discussed with (chamber) board members is we would like to have more engagement with the local school districts, particularly vocational education because it’s going to be very important going forward. Vocational education should not be looked down on – it’s just a different form of education, and I would hope that whatever these communities do, they do put resources into that type of education because the future workforce is going to require people to be able to fix the machines. They need a technical workforce. And that’s why I say it’s an extraordinarily important component of development.” In addition to local school systems, Surprise said he wants to work with regional colleges like his alma mater, Western New England University, which developed a top pharmaceutical program, and Springfield Technical Community College to develop a school-to-work pipeline that could entice tech companies to relocate to Western Mass. “Obviously, we’d love to see some of the technology businesses in Boston out this way,” he said, adding that “deep tech” entrepreneurs are finding capital from public-private partnerships driving economic growth in various places. If it’s working out elsewhere, why not here, Surprise wonders. “It’s fledgling technologies or technologies that launch different industries and different sectors. They’re really putting investment in entrepreneurs that have an idea. And I’m hoping that’s something we can do and I’m going to ask our legislators if we can tie some of those rounds of funding to our area,” he said. “So if you’re willing to start your business here, you’ll be able to access this funding. That’s one area we’re looking at.”

Mentoring, planning

Among the ways the QHCC can help members is by teaching marketing skills to those who need it, including direct mail. That may seem an analog approach in a digital world, but Surprise said it is still an effective tool for any business. Likewise for networking and cross-promoting. He and the chamber also want to make it easier for those with an entrepreneurial spirit to get started by leveraging services offered by the Service Corps of Retired Executives. The local chapter of SCORE is affiliated with STCC and helps teach business basics to those who have a skill, product or idea, but lack the background to monetize it. Writing a business plan might seem prohibitive to many would-be business owners, but just about everyone needs one to secure a loan or grant.

“They help businesses or entrepreneurs write a business plan, or maybe it’s knowledge of bookkeeping that’s needed or marketing,” Surprise said. “I’ve seen a lot of businesses come and go because they didn’t know what they were doing. They just decided all of a sudden, ‘I would like to start a business.’ There’s more to it than that and SCORE helps entrepreneurs learn how to run a business.” The chamber wants to work with municipalities on long-term planning and growth strategies. For instance, creating a cultural district could mean eligibility for targeted public and private funding while nurturing a tourism base that benefits existing businesses. “Another thing we talked about is training for the certified associate in project management exam and being able to help people pass that exam because that benefits large and small businesses alike,” Surprise said. “And the same thing with marketing. We’d love to have training on Facebook, Instagram, Google ads, things like that.” Buteau, the QHCC president, said with Surprise only about a month into the job, she’s already impressed. “Andrew is committed to personally getting to know our members and what their needs are,” she said. “He is looking forward to sharing his extensive knowledge and experience with them by providing them help, direction, and connections to get back on their feet or enhance their success.”

Fun facts

What’s Andrew Surprise like away from work? We asked him several “lightning round” questions to get some insight with about 30 seconds to answer each one:

- Question:** What’s your favorite book?
AS: The one that I read recently was Steve Jobs’ biography.
- Question:** What are three random songs in a playlist?
AS: “November Rain,” “Dancing in the Moonlight,” and “Black Hole Sun.”
- Question:** Favorite adult beverage?
AS: Craft beer
- Question:** Favorite other beverage?
AS: Black coffee
- Question:** The Beatles or Rolling Stones?
AS: Beatles.
- Question:** Favorite comfort food during quarantine?
AS: Soup
- Question:** Movie you keep going back to?
AS: Gattaca
- Want to go?
For more information about the chamber email Andrew Surprise at andrew@qhma.com or call 413-283-2418.

public notices

Notice of Public Hearing Planning Board LEGAL NOTICE SP-2021-01

NOTICE is hereby given that the Ware Planning Board, acting as the Special Permit Granting Authority, will hold a Public Hearing on **Thursday, April 1 at 7:05 PM** on the application of Gevork Anderyassian for a Special Permit (SP-2021-01). Applicant is requesting approval for a home occupation to use an existing barn and garage as a creative workshop for an internet based business. The hearing will be held in the Selectmen’s Meeting Room, 126 Main Street, Town Hall, Ware, MA. Public is encouraged to attend via digital platform Zoom Meetings. Go to <https://zoom.us/join> or join by phone. Phone Number: 929-205-6099; Meeting ID: 784-604-1861; Password: 01082.

SITE LOCATION: 111 East Street, Ware, MA. Said premises being further described in deeds recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds, Book 11865, Page 308. Assessor’s Parcel 24-0-32. Zoned: Highway Commercial (HC).

A complete copy of the application can be found at the Town Clerk’s office by appointment and on the Planning & Community Development Department website under Recent Filings. Anyone interested or wishing to be heard on the application should appear at the time and place designated.

WARE PLANNING BOARD
Richard Starodj,
Chairman
03/04, 03/11/2021

LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts General Law 105A, for the purpose of satisfying the liens of **Country Corners Storage & Realty**, in order to satisfy past due rents and other expenses, the contents of the following storage unit will be sold for non-payment on **Saturday, March 5, 2021 at 10 a.m.** on the premises of **Country Corners Storage, 50 Greenwich Rd., Ware, MA (413)967-6095**. Cheryl Smith: Storage Building 4 Unit 1 02/25, 03/04/2021

Notice of Sale of Motor Vehicle under G.L. c. 255, Section 39A

Notice is hereby given by: **Regin’s Repair, 19 Church St., Gilbertville, MA 01031**, pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, Section 39A, that on **March 15, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.** at: Regin’s Repair by private sale the following Motor Vehicle will be sold to satisfy the garagekeeper’s lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle. Vehicle description: 2012 Nissan Rogue

Registration#/State: C124LR/MA
VIN: JN8AS5MV6CW418750
Name and address of owner: Joseph Kenyon 114 North St. Ware, MA 01082
By: **James M. Regin**
Dated: 2/16/2021
02/25, 03/04, 03/11/2021

Town of Warren Tree Warden NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 87, Public Shade Tree Law, Section 4 (Cutting of public shade trees; public hearing; damages to fee owner), the Town of Warren Tree Warden will hold a public hearing regarding an application from the Town of Warren to remove twenty one(21) public shade trees located on Cronin Road. The hearing will be held **Friday, March 19, 2021 at 2:00 pm** in the Highway Building, 87 Brimfield Road, Warren, MA. Any person interested or wishing to be heard on this matter should appear at the time and place designated, or may submit a letter to the Tree Warden before the hearing so that it may be read into the hearing record. Correspondence should be sent to Tree Warden at PO Box 609, Warren, MA, 01083.

The list of town trees designated for removal are as follows: located on Cronin Road located between National Grid utility poles numbered 7 & 8, a 14 inch and a 28 inch oak; located between National Grid utility poles numbered 10 & 10-5, a 16 inch white pine and a 16 inch oak; located between National Grid utility poles numbered 12 & 13, a 30 inch oak; located across from National Grid utility pole numbered 17; a 20 inch dead locust; located at National Grid utility poles numbered 17, a 14 inch ash; located between National Grid utility poles numbered 17 & 18, a 30 inch ash; located between National Grid utility poles numbered 18 & 19, an 8 inch and a 14 inch maple; located between National Grid utility poles numbered 19 & 20, an 8 inch cherry, a 12 inch maple, a 30 inch maple, and a 20 inch oak; located between National Grid utility poles numbered 20 & 21, a 12 inch oak and an 8 inch maple; located between National Grid utility poles numbered 21 & 22, a 36 inch maple; located between National Grid utility poles numbered 22 & 22-5, a 36 inch oak and a 14 inch maple; located between National Grid utility poles numbered 22-5 & 23, a 40+ inch oak; located across from National Grid utility pole numbered 25, a 24 inch dead oak.

Kenneth B. Lacey, Jr.
Tree Warden
03/04, 03/11/2021

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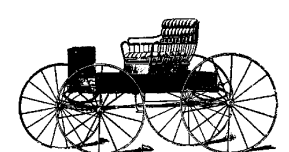
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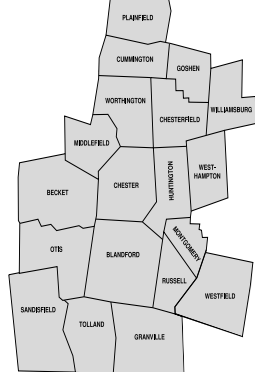
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CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	Base Price \$26.50	22	Base Price \$27.00
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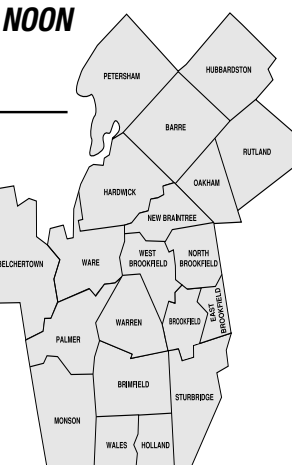
Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____
Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
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Three prizes will be awarded to students based on essays about distracted driving

BOSTON – The law offices of Mark E. Salomone in Massachusetts are proud to sponsor a nationwide essay contest focusing on innovative ways to prevent distracted driving. The three essay winners will receive \$3,000 worth of scholarship prizes for education-related expenses.

The essay contest is open to current or admitted undergraduates (including graduating high school

seniors) and law school students who will be attending accredited colleges or universities in the United States in fall 2021. Proof of enrollment will be required to receive the award. Essays must be between 500 and 1,000 words long. The essays will focus on how to prevent distracted driving and promote safe driving habits among young drivers.

Distracted driving, especially sending or reading a text, poses a threat not just to the driver, but to their passengers, people in other cars and pedestrians. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, from 2014 to 2018 more than 15,000 people were killed in crashes involving a distracted driver, and teens ages 15-19 have the largest percent-

age of fatal crashes due to distracted driving.

The winning essay will be awarded \$1,500. The second prize winner receives a \$1,000 prize. Third place receives a \$500 prize. Only one essay can be submitted per student. Essays must be original content.

The application deadline is May 31. Winners will then be announced on July 31. Applicants can view the rules of the contest and apply online at the following web page for the law offices of Mark E. Salomone at www.marksalomone.com/scholarship.

Each submission must include:

- An essay as a Microsoft Word document (.doc or .docx format)

- A digital photo of applicant (in .jpg or .png format)
- A school transcript or proof of enrollment
- Applicant's name, address and phone number
- School name and address
- A short, two to three sentence bio
- A waiver form with a parent or guardian's signature for applicants under 18

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